

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 02098 080955 Z

13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /128 W

----- 002507

R 080830 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8952

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2098

E. O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO LE SY

SUBJ: MOROCCAN REACTION TO BEIRUT CLASHES

1. GOM' S REACTION TO NEWS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE ARMY WAS INDICATIVE INCREASED MOROCCAN INTEREST IN NEAR EAST. KING HASSAN TELEPHONED GOL PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND YASSER AFAFAT, AND ALSO SENT PERSONAL EMISSARY, DEY OULD SIDI BABA (DIRECTOR OF ROYAL CABINET) TO BEIRUT TO MEDIATE. ACCORDING HEADLINES IN PROGOVERNMENT PRESS, SIDI BABA MET MAY 5 WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE, AND WAS TO MEET WITH YASSER ARAFAT SAME DAY. MAY 6 SIDI BABA REPORTEDLY WENT TO DAMASCUS WITH MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT ASSAD FROM KING HASSAN WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO INCURSIONS OF SYRIAN- BACKED PALESTINIANS INTO LEBANON. GOVERNMENT MEDIA HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CREDIT KING' S MEDIATION WITH BRINGING END TO FIGHTING.

2. MOROCCAN OPPOSITION PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENCE TO PALESTINIAN ALLEGATIONS LEBANESE ARMY STARTED SHOOTING IN CAHOOTS WITH ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM. FOR EXAMPLE, DAILY " MAGHREB- INFORMATIONS," WHICH OWNED BY MOROCCAN TRADE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 02098 080955 Z

UNION (UMT), FEATURES COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IN DAMASCUS BY PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE CHARGING THAT LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER GHANEM WAS ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE AT AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT UNTIL NAMED TO PRESENT POST, AND LEANING ON OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS.

3. ON UNIVERSITY FRONT ARAB STUDENTS STUDYING IN RABAT ASSEMBLED MAY 3 AT LEBANESE EMBASSY, AND SENT TELEGRAMS TO FRANGIE, YASSER ARAFAT, AND JUMBLATT, WHILE GROUP (NEW TO US) CALLED " GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS" CALLED FOR SHORT STRIKES AT UNIVERSITY IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. ISTIQLALI " AL- ALAM" ALSO REPORTS EXISTENCE OF GROUP CALLED " GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN TEACHERS" AS CONDEMNING LEBANESE ACTION AGAINST PALESTINIANS. THIS IS FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT PALESTINIANS HERE HAVE OPENLY ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, SOMETHING WHICH LOCAL SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT LIKE.

4. IN GENERAL, SHOCK WAVES FROM BEIRUT FIGHTING HAVE HAD REAL EFFECT HERE. MOROCCAN PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN SENSITIZED TO ME ISSUES BY KING' S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SEND TROOPS TO SYRIA AND ATTENDANT PROPAGANDA, AS WELL AS BY OBJECTIVE DETERIORATION OF ME SITUATION IN RECENT MONTHS. WE WILL BE TAKING SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR MAY 15 ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ISRAEL.
ROCKWELL

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR MO LE SY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT02098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730539/aaaailac.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980107
Subject: MOROCCAN REACTION TO BEIRUT CLASHES
TAGS: PFOR, n/a
To: AF
ALGIERS
BEIRUT
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
TUNIS
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005